

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1-52 (canceled).

Claim 53 (previously presented): A system that is useable to guide the advancement of a guidewire from a location within the lumen of a blood vessel to a location within or outside of the wall of that blood vessel, said system comprising:

an elongate flexible catheter body that is advanceable through the vasculature into said blood vessel lumen, said catheter body having a side wall and at least one lumen extending longitudinally therethrough;

an opening formed in the side wall of said catheter body;

a tissue penetrating element having a lumen, a tissue penetrating distal tip and a distal end opening, said tissue penetrating element being alternately disposable in;

a) a first position wherein the tissue penetrating element is substantially within the catheter body; and

b) a second position wherein the tissue penetrating element assumes a predetermined curved configuration and extends out of the opening formed in the side wall of said catheter body so as to penetrate a wall of the blood vessel adjacent to the blood vessel lumen in which the catheter is positioned; and

a guidewire that is advanceable through the lumen of the tissue penetrating element while the tissue penetrating element is in the second position.

Claim 54 (previously presented): A system according to claim 53 further comprising an anchoring member, said anchoring member being deployable when the catheter body is inserted into an anatomical lumen such that a surface of the anchoring member will engage a wall of the anatomical lumen thereby preventing at least a portion of the catheter body from undergoing substantial movement within the anatomical lumen.

Claim 55 (previously presented): A system according to claim 54 wherein the anchoring member comprises a balloon.

Claim 56 (previously presented): A system according to claim 54 further comprising a friction enhancing treatment upon a surface of the anchoring member.

Claim 57 (previously presented): A system according to claim 56 wherein said friction enhancing treatment is selected from the group of friction enhancing treatments consisting of:

texturing;
adhesive; and,
woven fabric.

Claim 58 (previously presented): A system according to claim 53 further comprising a lumen within the catheter body to receive an imaging apparatus.

Claims 59-60 (cancelled).

Claim 61 (previously presented): A system comprising a device according to claim 58 in combination with an imaging apparatus positioned with said lumen adapted to receive an imaging apparatus.

Claim 62 (previously presented): A system according to claim 61 wherein the imaging apparatus comprises an intravascular ultrasound imaging apparatus.

Claim 63 (previously presented): A system according to claim 58 wherein the catheter body has a first lumen from which the tissue penetrating element is advanced and a second lumen for receiving the imaging apparatus.